

# Pride wins in St. Louis

Super Regionals third win in a row for 'grandest band'

by **Shaelyn Disotell**  
 Pulse Staff Writer

On Oct. 16-17 the Pride attended Super Regional in St. Louis. They won every award that was possible, including first place.

In preliminary performance 62 bands from all over the country came to compete for a spot in finals. Bixby and Union also attended this event and only 14 bands advanced to finals, including Broken Arrow.

The awards ceremony after the preliminary performances was for the class caption awards, including overall music, visual and general effect. Schools are split into classes by how big their school is.

Broken Arrow won all of their classes caption awards and became the 4A class champion.

In finals, Broken Arrow placed first and once again won all the caption awards. The Pride has won this event 10 times and has a 3 year streak.

"Going to a Super Regional helps prepare you for Grand Nationals and gets the newer kids into the flow of competitions and what our end goal of the season is," senior



**PRIDE PERFORMS** (Top) The Pride poses while waiting for final results from their performance. (Bottom) Senior Jace Davison performs. (Photos Submitted)

colorguard member Ashley Turner said.

Going on this trip and attending this event was very beneficial.

"It gets everyone used to playing in a dome and gets everyone pumped for competition season," junior front ensemble member Blake Jumper said.

Members also had favorite parts of the trip, including the

bus ride, watching other bands or performing in general.

"The best part was being able to experience all of our hard work paying off and being able to experience it with friends," junior clarinet player Mahogany Galloway said.

This St. Louis trip was just the beginning of the Pride's competition season, but they're already off to a great start.

## STUDENT LIFE

### Sign language class leaves them speechless

by **Zach Duncan**  
 Pulse Staff Writer

Every year, students take American Sign Language classes without uttering a word. American Sign Language can provide scholarships such as health care, education and linguistics. American Sign Language isn't just expressing words with movement, to those who depend on it, it's a lifeline.

"You can talk to deaf people in the community; there are silent dinners at Woodland Hills Mall that you can attend and talk to lots of deaf people," ASL teacher Mrs. Suzanne Thompson said.

Students taking American Sign Language are learning a different language without speaking a word. Students can really enjoy taking this class. Learning this language can help with translating for people that can't speak.

"Sign language can really help, like when I go into public places and there is a deaf person, I can talk to them and not have a problem understanding what they're telling me," junior Kylie Duncan said.

Broken Arrow had a large deaf community at one time; there used to be classes held just for the deaf students attending Broken Arrow Public Schools. There are several foreign language classes around the BAHS campus. Most students now take the classes as electives. Students that take these classes are offered many things because of the experience; they can even qualify for scholarships in some foreign universities.

"I taught the deaf for 17 years and have always loved sign language," Thompson said.

There are fewer and fewer students taking ASL. Universities have majors in foreign languages and can provide jobs for students that have interest in that field of work.

"It was just fascinating to me and amazing talking to people who can't speak; it was just really a fascinating opportunity," sophomore Maggie Davidson said.

If a student wishes to enroll into ASL classes for next semester they should speak to the counselor about it now.



**LEARN THE COLORS** Sophomore Riley Savala signs the colors with teacher Suzanne Thompson. (Photo by Victoria Corbitt)

# Aaron Sawyer crowned Mr. BA

by Maddie Riggin  
Pulse Staff Writer

The annual Mr. Broken Arrow Pageant was held at the Broken Arrow PAC on Oct. 20. Sixteen of Broken Arrow High School's finest men competed for the title of Mr. BA.

"Competing was super nerve wracking, but when I got on stage I got an amazing feeling," senior Alec Allphin said.

The competition was held in order to raise funds for Broken Arrow Vocal Music. Contestants represented clubs and groups from around the school such as: Mr. FCCLA, Mr. Thespian Club, and Mr. Guitar Club.

The show started with a group dance number choreographed by senior, Adia Johnson to the song "I Don't Like It, I Love It," by Flo Rida. After the dance number, the contestants competed in the athletic wear portion of the competition, some chose to wear their uniforms from their sport, while others chose to wear short shorts and tank tops.

"I wore my football jersey from first grade for the athletic portion; it's a little more like a crop top now though," senior Austin Wyatt said.

After the athletic wear portion, contestants performed their talents, which ranged from playing piano, singing, to self-choreographed rhythmic gymnastic ribbon dancing.

"My favorite talent was Miller Godwin's,"

senior Sami Wert said. "His slam poem about learning to love yourself was so good. It made me cry because I've struggled with that my whole life."

For the final category, contestants showed off their best suits for the evening wear portion. They were escorted by show choir girls, who helped them look and feel their best. An onstage interview was held by the current Miss Broken Arrow, Maggie Bond, where contestants tried to win over the judges and the audience's votes with their clever answers.

The judges for this year's competition included Megan Lloyd, April Martin, and the current Mrs. Broken Arrow, Spring Gray.

The winning categories include: Talent, Evening Wear, Fitness Wear, Fan Favorite and Mr. BA. Fan Favorite was decided by the audience donations. The escorts held jars with their corresponding contestant before the show and during intermission, the contestant with the most donations won the award.

In the end, senior Aaron Sawyer, who served as Mr. Jungle Squad, was crowned Mr. BA 2015 by last year's winner, Jorell Smallwood.

"I'm so honored to represent my school in such a positive way," Sawyer said.

The night was a success for Vocal Music, who raised over \$1100 in fan donations alone, the contestants, and all who attended.



**MR. BA: A NIGHT TO REMEMBER**  
(Clockwise from top-left) Senior Aaron Sawyer reacts to being named Mr. BA. Junior Caleb Ricketts performs "Faith" for his award-winning talent. Senior Alec Allphin poses for crowd. Senior Matt Riera answers an on-stage question for his award-winning evening wear portion. Senior Noah Basinger performs an interpretive dance to "Let it Go" for his talent. (Photos by Sonja Truong)



**COLLECTION OF CANDIDATES** Portraits of each candidate were used on their contribution jars for the Fan Favorite portion of the contest, which was won by senior Andrew Truman. (Photos by Mindy Kincaide)

## Volleyball beats Union, heads to state

by Spencer Tuia  
Pulse Staff Writer

It is what every school sports team dreams of: winning regionals and being able to go to state. For the Broken Arrow Volleyball team, this dream became a reality. Although the season had been a stressful one, the Lady Tigers did not let anything come between them and their will to win. They knew that it took teamwork in order to achieve it.

“We knew what we had to do in order to win and we had to work together to achieve that goal,” senior Taylor Bailey said. “We were all going for the same thing and we couldn’t do it individually.”

Ranked no. 6 in the Class 6A rankings, the Lady Tigers felt that regionals was their chance to climb to the top. The only thing standing in front of them was a team that they had lost to earlier in their season: the Union Redskins. This loss took a toll on the team, but it made their will to win even stronger than it was before. After defeating Sapulpa, the Lady Tigers took on the Lady Redskins. The first set was filled with high energy and excitement after the Lady Tigers beat them, but the energy slowly went down after the loss of the second set. However, the Lady Tigers’s hard work and belief in each other gave them confidence as they conquered Union in the last two sets, awarding them their chance to win that state title.

“Winning regionals was one of the best experiences I’ve ever had with my team,” senior Grace Marujo said. “We worked every point and we didn’t give up on each other, and I think that’s the most important thing. These girls are like my sisters and I wouldn’t trade them for the world.”

The morning of the state tournament at Catoosa High School was full of motivation and elation. There were many emotions running among the seniors as they thought about how this would be the last time they would ever play high school volleyball. Either way, they knew that they had to play to the best of their ability in honor of their last time.

The game was against the no. 2 ranked team in Class 6A: Edmond Santa Fe. This wasn’t the first time running into this team; the Lady Tigers had beat them in one set at the Jenks Tournament but was defeated in the next three sets. After this loss, they became even more determined to beat them in the first round of the state tournament.

Unfortunately, Edmond Santa Fe ousted Broken Arrow in 3 sets; Broken Arrow only winning 1 of the 4 played. Tears were shed, emotions were high, but the Lady Tigers held their heads up high as they left Catoosa. Although they weren’t able to grab that state title, they were proud of the effort they have given in that intensifying game.

“We may have lost, but we played our hearts out. I’m so proud to be a part of this incredible team, and I couldn’t have asked for a better way to end our season,” senior Sonya Glander said.

The Lady Tigers ended their season with a 23-10 record. They have high hopes for the next season, and still hold that dream of becoming state champions.

## Breast cancer affects everyone

by Koleigh Meier  
Pulse Staff Writer

October is known for many things like the cool fall air, pumpkins, hot chocolate and Halloween, but there is one very important thing about October, it is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. During the month of October everyone dedicates their time to the pink fighters...or the ones who are undergoing a battle that will affect the rest of their lives. Breast cancer causes a lot of heartache for the people who are dealing with it. People everywhere dealing with this battle, even students at Broken Arrow High School have loved ones going through this tough fight.

“On April 21, 2015 my mother was diagnosed with stage three breast cancer,” senior Kenzie Trotter said. “My world was changed forever on that day.”

According to the American Cancer Society, this year an estimated 231,840 new cases of breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in U.S. women. This year an estimated 231,840 lives will be changed forever.

Not only will the women suffering from the illness be affected, so will their friends and family who love them. Breast cancer is no joke. It is expected to kill 40,290 women this year. Besides skin cancer, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among American women. In 2015, it’s estimated that just under 30% of newly diagnosed cancers in women will be breast cancers.

Being diagnosed with breast cancer, or any cancer for that matter, means a certain journey through many rounds of chemotherapy and radiation treatments. During these chemotherapy and radiation sessions, patients can experience many side effects. Side effects, which include: fatigue, pain, mouth and throat sores, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, constipation, blood disorders and nervous system defects. After chemo and radiation the patient may have to have surgery as well to remove any of the remaining cancer cells. It can take very long periods of time to heal and overcome from chemo, radiation and surgery as a patient.

“Throughout the process of my mother’s diagnosis, I looked to God for help by putting my trust and faith into him,” Trotter said. “I was



**MOTHER AND DAUGHTER** Senior Kenzie Trotter’s mother, Jodi Shedeker, was diagnosed with stage three breast cancer last year. (Photo Submitted)

always staying positive, even when times were very tough.”

Like Trotter and her family, many other families are dealing with the impact of breast cancer as well. Seeing loved ones diagnosed with breast cancer can be very hard to deal with. How do friends and family cope with cancer? The American Cancer Society provides support groups for patients and family members who are going through the battle. These support groups provide personal therapists or allow the patients to be in group therapy with other patients dealing with the same illness. Families are allowed the same benefits.

Many different feelings and emotions will occur during the diagnosis of breast cancer such as: frustration, anger, sadness, confusion and fear. Fear is the biggest emotion caused by cancer’s influence.

“I was affected by my mother’s diagnosis in more than one way, but my biggest fear was acknowledging the fact that I could lose my mother to this fatal disease,” Trotter said.

Some cancer patients eventually reach a stage of remission, when cancer has disappeared from the body. It is a long and hard battle to fight. Like many others, Trotter’s mother is doing a lot better. She reached a stage of remission from her stage three breast cancer on October 8, 2015. She will have a mastectomy on November 10, 2015 and will then undergo radiation treatment for 6 months. After all of that is said and done, she should be doing very well.

Remission is possible. All of the women who are fighting breast cancer are not alone. People are representing them and cheering them on in miraculous ways. Wear pink this month to support the ladies in need, like senior Kenzie Trotter’s mother.

# School-wide blood drive leads to lives saved by donors

by Callie Spencer  
Pulse Staff Writer

Students at the Broken Arrow high school were pumped for the blood drive, which took place on Oct. 21. The event ran from 7:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Although the event was held in the practice gym, students decorated the student union to publicize the event. With Halloween coming up, the timing of the blood drive could not have been better. The walls were covered in black paper with red hand prints and promotional phrases on them. Fake spiders and spider webs hung from the ceiling and posters lined the walls. One poster read, "Always give 100%, unless you're giving blood." Leadership students created some hashtags to accompany the event: #BADblood #Leader4Liters #Bpositive. Skylar Johnson is a senior who helped out with the promotion of the blood drive.

"I helped decorate the student union and that was fun," Johnson said.

Everyone who participated in the blood drive had different motivations for doing so. Some NHS students did it for volunteer hours, other students might have done it just to get free food and a free shirt; however, students primarily did it in hopes of helping save lives. Many students had participated in a school sponsored blood drive in the past, and were looking forward to participating again.

"I've always wanted to donate blood, and getting to do

it for the third time makes me really happy," junior Noah Osborne said. "I'm happy to do anything I can to make a difference."

Unfortunately, not everyone qualified to give blood. Donors had to have been between the ages of 16 and 18. Depending on their height, male donors must have weighed between 110 and 118 pounds, and female donors must have weighed between 110 and 133 pounds. Before a student could give blood, their iron levels were tested. If they were too low for the American Red Cross's standards, then they were considered anemic and were unable to donate. If a person did qualify to donate, then the school made it easy to do so. Students went to donate blood during a time that worked best for them during the school day. It is because of this convenience that most students haven't donated outside of school sponsored blood drives.

"I've never found time to give blood outside of school, but I try to always participate in the blood drives at school," senior Breanna Tilton said.

While donating blood only took about ten minutes, the entire process took about an hour. First, donors signed in and read through a booklet of information on giving blood. Then they were asked a series of questions about their health and personal information. After that, their finger was pricked and their blood was tested to make sure their iron levels were high enough to donate. If they

weren't, then they were sent back to class, otherwise, they continued on with the process. Once they were hooked up to the IV, all that was left to do was wait. To make sure that everyone was in good shape when they left, food and beverages were provided after donation.

Although giving blood may have left donors feeling woozy, hopefully they also felt good for helping to save the lives of those who needed them.



**SAVING LIVES** Senior Jessa Melvin helps the cause by donating her blood during the school-wide drive in the auxiliary gym. (Photo by Baillie Rosser)

## Student Artist Spotlight

Emily Catlin hopes to use art as an architect

by Cloey Patton  
Pulse Staff Writer



(Photo by Cloey Patton)

Senior Emily Catlin has been drawing since she was just a little girl, and now, she's taking both 2D and 3D AP Studio Art.

"She is a fantastic student and has the three ingredients needed to succeed at art on anything she takes an interest in: talent, creativity, and drive," AP Studio Art teacher, Mr. Rob Brown said.

Catlin does her artwork in a very compact and precise manner. Also, she notices the patterns and color schemes of everything around her. Her pieces are inclusive to drawings of buildings because she's interested in architecture as her future career.

Catlin took a picture of Carnegie Hall during a recent trip to New York, which is what she drew this piece from. The drawing, which is named "Carnegie Hall," was created using prisma color pencils.

"I wanted to remember my trip, and Carnegie Hall was the most memorable building," Catlin said.

Catlin's interest in buildings began in seventh grade, and she started drawing them as a sophomore. Catlin uses her skills in art to help improve her drawings of buildings. After high school, Catlin plans to use this skill for a career as an architect.

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